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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 SS-15 NSC-10 CU-04

OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10

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TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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SUBJECT: TOLBERT VISIT

SUMMARY. PRESIDENT TOLBERT' S VISIT TO US SO FAR HAS GONE
VERY WELL, BOTH IN TERMS OF WELCOME ACCORDED PARTY IN
WASHINGTON AND SAN FRANCISCO AREA AND SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSS-
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IONS HELD WITH PRESIDENT NIXON, SECRETARY ROGERS, AID ADMINISTRATOR HANNAH AND OTHER FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS. TOLBERT AND HIS MINISTERS CONTINUE TO HOPE VISIT WILL BE MARKED BY SPECIAL ACT OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. THROUGHOUT VISIT, IN PREPARED SPEECHES, IMPROMTU COMMENTS, AND TALKS WITH OFFICIALS, TOLBERT STRESSED NEW LIBERIA'S EMPHASIS ON SELF- RELIANCE AND SELF- HELP, OFTEN CITING DOLLARS 4.5 MILLION ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO RALLY CAMPAIGN FOR UP- COUNTRY AND UNIVERSITY IMPROVEMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, MINISTERS ACCOMPANYING THE PARTY, ALTHOUGH PREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE SUBSTANTIAL 72 AND 73 AID LEVELS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, THEY HAVE ON MANY OCCASIONS, SUCH AS SPECIAL STATE/ AID MEETING WITH NEWSOM AND ADAMS, STRESSED POLITICAL DESIRABILITY OF TOLBERT BEING ABLE ON RETURN TO POINT TO CONCRETE NEW EVIDENCE OF US ENDORSEMENT AND US SUPPORT TO CURRENT SELF- HELP AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. IN BOARDING PRESIDENTIAL JET FOR CHICAGO JUNE 8, PRESIDENT EXPRESSED TO ASSISTANT SECY NEWSOM HIS GREAT

APPRECIATION FOR USG RECEPTION AND INDICATED " I KNOW YOU WILL DO WHAT YOU CAN FOR LIBERIA." STATE AND AID OFFICIALS PLAN TO MEET AGAIN WITH FORMIN WEEKS, STEPHEN TOLBERT, AND MINPLAN NEAL, DURING JUNE 12-15 PERIOD WHEN LIBERIAN PRESIDENT UNDERGOING MEDICAL CHECKUP AT JOHNS HOPKINS. FYI. WHILE PROSPECTS NOT BRIGHT, AID CURRENTLY REVIEWING POSSIBILITY OF MODEST ONE- TIME SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MOBILE HOSPITALS AND ROAD BUILDING EQUIPMENT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. END FYI.

2. MAIN FOREIGN POLICY ITEMS DISCUSSED BY TOLBERT WERE OAU ACTIVITIES, AFRICAN REGIONAL COOPERATION, MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES.

3. TOLBERT WARMLY ENDORSED ELECTION NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STATE GOWON AS CURRENT OAU CHAIRMAN, CLAIMING MAJOR ROLE IN ENGINEERING SELECTION. ACKNOWLEDGING STRONG BUT UNSUCCESSFUL LIBYAN PRESSURES AT SUMMIT FOR MOVING CAPITAL TO CAIRO, HE OPPOSED CHANGE IN CAPITAL SITE. AS HEAD OF ONE OF 8 NATIONS CHARGED WITH MEDIATING ETHIOPIA- SOMALIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISPUTE, TOLBERT FELT SOLUTION TO PROBLEM DIFFICULT BUT POSSIBLE IF TENSIONS BORN OF TROOP- BUILDUPS ALONG BORDER COULD BE REDUCED AND SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS UNDERTAKEN.

4. ON AFRICAN REGIONAL COOPERATION, TOLBERT INDICATED LIBERIA BELIEVED REAL UNITY SHOULD BE BUILT ON SUB- REGIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND THEREFORE GAVE PRIORITY TO

INFORMAL AND FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH PRESIDENTS OF IVORY COAST, GUINEA, SIERRA LEONE, AND NIGERIA. BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THESE NEIGHBORS SOUGHT, BUT FULL DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION HAMPERED BY LIBERIA'S COMPARATIVELY LESS- DEVELOPED INFRASTRUCTURE.

5. ON MIDDLE EAST, TOLBERT FELT FORWARD MOVEMENT DEPENDED UPON ISRAEL RELEASING OCCUPIED " AFRICAN LANDS" A STEP WHICH WOULD LEAD TO NEGOTIATION. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO GET THE ISRAELI AND THE ARABS TO NEGOTIATE AND URGED US TO CONTINUE TO DO SO.

6. TOLBERT HAD NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES BUT SUGGESTED STRONG ACTIONS BY BRITAIN, FRANCE AND US ALONG WITH CONTINUING EFFORTS AFRICAN STATES WOULD WEAKEN APARTHEID AND PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM. PORTUGAL FREQUENT TARGET IN LIBERIAN PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC SPEECHES WITH REPEATED ALLUSIONS TO LISBON'S PIONEER ROLE IN CREATION OF AFRICAN SLAVERY.

7. IN PUBLIC SPEECHES DURING VISIT, TOLBERT REAFFIRMING

OPEN DOOR POLICY AND ENCOURAGING MORE INVESTMENT. HE STRESSING, HOWEVER, THAT NEW DEALS MUST BE ON EQUITABLE, MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS BASIS AND HIS MINISTERS ARE INDICATING PREFERENCES FOR INVESTMENTS WHICH ARE NOT PURELY EXTRACTIVE BUT INVOLVE SEMI- FINISHED AND FINISHED EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY TIMBER AND RUBBER.

8. IN SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR ALIOTO ANNOUNCED CALIFORNIA'S INTENTION TO ASSIST LIBERIA TO BECOME SELF- SUFFICIENT IN RICE PRODUCTION AND SUPERINTENDENT HARRY GREAVES AND ACTION DIRECTOR JULIUS COOPER REMAINED IN CALIFORNIA FOR WHAT THEY LATER DESCRIBED AS PRACTICAL AND FRUITFUL TALKS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH STATE OFFICIALS IN SACRAMENTO.

9. COMMENT: BELIEVE VISIT SO FAR HAS REALIZED LIBERIA'S OBJECTIVE OF PROJECTING POSITIVE NEW IMAGE OF COUNTRY AND ITS LEADERS TO AMERICA. FACT TOLBERT CLEARLY PLEASED WITH QUALITY OF HIS RECEPTION BY SENIOR OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND SAN FRANCISCO WOULD APPEAR TO GO LONG WAY TOWARD INDICATING TO LIBERIAN PEOPLE THAT THEIR PRESIDENT ESTEEMED IN THE US WHERE IT COUNTS. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE. TOLBERT'S PUBLIC SPEECHES WELL ATTENDED AND RECEIVED. RUSH

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